



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 30 May 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- WUSA 9 reports that FBI estimates cargo theft and trailer hijackings to net \$30 billion a year for thieves and to be relatively low risk. This has raised concerns that it may be an easy option for terrorists trying to raise money. (See item [13](#))
- The Associated Press reports that federal investigators arrived Thursday at the tracks outside Boston where two commuter trains collided and derailed during rush hour Wednesday, killing one person and injuring more than a dozen others. (See item [15](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Nuclear Reactors, Materials and Waste](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#); [Dams](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#); [Information Technology](#); [Communications](#); [Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities](#); [Emergency Services](#); [National Monuments and Icons](#)

Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: **Physical: ELEVATED, Cyber: ELEVATED**

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *May 29, American Exploration and Production Council* – (National) **Senate climate bill puts natural gas supply at risk.** The American Exploration and Production Council (AXPC) announced Thursday that a new Wood Mackenzie study shows climate policy legislation to be considered by the Senate as early as next week could force a reduction in natural gas supplies and a significant price increase for consumers. Energy research and consulting firm Wood Mackenzie has provided this independent estimate of the potential risks to the economic development of U.S. natural gas resources. These impacts could result from pending legislation that would require natural gas processors to purchase “cap and trade” program emission allowances for ultimate end-users of natural gas. Wood Mackenzie found that as much as 32 percent of expected natural gas

supply in the year 2012, rising to more than 45 percent in 2017, could be put at risk if natural gas exploration and production companies are forced to bear the emission allowance costs of those ultimately burning the gas. Even if 50 percent of the costs are somehow passed to consumers, expected supplies would be reduced by five percent to 14 percent. The Wood Mackenzie analysis warns of "...sharply higher prices in response to any threat to US natural gas supplies."

Source:

http://www.bizjournals.com/dallas/prnewswire/press_releases/national/District_of_Columbia/2008/05/29/LATH505

2. *May 28, News and Observer* – (North Carolina) **Bill aims to outlaw coal mined by removing mountaintops.** Half the coal burned by Progress Energy's and Duke Energy's power plants would become illegal in North Carolina under legislation proposed Tuesday by a state representative. The representative wants to outlaw importation of coal that has been extracted by a controversial form of strip mining known as mountaintop removal. The process involves blowing up several hundred feet of mountaintop to expose embedded veins of coal. The state's power companies say the representative's proposal would force utilities to buy more expensive coal and raise the cost of electricity for consumers. Coal mined from mountaintops is the cheapest coal available to Progress and Duke. North Carolina relies on coal for about 60 percent of its electricity. Mountaintop coal removal is not practiced in North Carolina, but coal mined that way is imported from West Virginia, Kentucky, and other Appalachian states. Critics say that mountaintop removal destroys habitats, leads to erosion and flooding, and releases toxins into waterways.

Source: <http://www.newsobserver.com/business/nc/story/1087504.html>

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Chemical Industry Sector

3. *May 28, Chicago Tribune* – (Michigan) **Dow Chemical ordered to clean up area in Michigan near its headquarters.** Federal officials Wednesday ordered Dow Chemical to clean up high levels of dioxin recently discovered in homes and yards in a Saginaw, Michigan, neighborhood downstream from the company's world headquarters. Preliminary results from tests conducted in March by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found dioxin levels in household dust and outdoor soil that were well above the federal cleanup standard. The amount in a sample taken from one yard was 23 times higher than what the EPA considers reasonably safe. The new order marks the first time that federal officials have forced a dioxin cleanup in a residential area near Dow's sprawling Midland, Michigan, chemical plant. The EPA issued four similar orders last year, three for industrial areas and another along a public park. Company officials still contend dioxin-contaminated soil and sediment does not threaten people or wildlife. At the same time, they say the company is prepared to restore polluted areas, but they disagree with state and federal officials about how the project should be carried out.

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-dioxin-29-both-may29,0,7252768.story>

Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

4. *May 29, Asbury Park Press* – (New Jersey) **NRC seeks data on nuke plant.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) wants more information on a planned 3-D analysis of a corroded radiation barrier at the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in Lacey, New Jersey, according to an order it issued Wednesday. The steel drywell is a crucial barrier surrounding Oyster Creek's reactor. It is meant to contain radiation and protect the public should an accident happen. The NRC's four commissioners voted to seek written testimony on the upcoming 3-D analysis by plant operator AmerGen Energy Co.
Source: <http://www.app.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080529/NEWS/805290613>
5. *May 29, Tri-City Herald* – (Washington) **Workers probe drop in waste level in tank at Hanford.** Hanford workers are investigating the possibility of a recent leak at one of the nuclear reservation's underground tanks of high-level waste after an unexplained drop in the contents of Tank SX-104. "We want to protect human health and the environment and in that process treat it as a potential leaker until we can prove otherwise," said the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) federal project director for tank retrieval. A May check of the level of the waste in the enclosed tank found it had dropped 3.384 inches since October. Checks of the tank level have been increased from four times a year to weekly, with last week's measurement showing the level had risen a twentieth of an inch. Checks also are being made in the seven monitoring wells that ring the underground tank for an increase in radiation levels that might be caused by a leak. "We haven't seen any increase," said a CH2M Hill vice president and chief engineer. But he also noted that the dry wells have not detected possible previous leaks. Contingency plans are being made in case the assessment team does conclude a leak occurred.
Source: <http://www.tri-cityherald.com/901/story/197239.html>
6. *May 29, Deseret News* – (Utah) **Is U.K. viewing Utah as a nuclear waste site?** A British lord told Parliament this month that a representative from EnergySolutions Inc. had offered to accept radioactive waste from the U.K. at the company's disposal facility in Utah. According to a transcript of Parliament's proceedings on May 21, the British lord said he had talked to EnergySolutions about dealing with British nuclear waste. "EnergySolutions has told me that, while spent fuel and waste from fuel reprocessing must go into a deep repository in this country, much of the so-called intermediate waste does not need to be managed in that way but can be either recycled for use in new nuclear build or transported to EnergySolutions' own disposal facility, called Clive, in the Utah desert," he said.
Source: <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,700229874,00.html?pg=1>
7. *May 28, Associated Press* – (International) **Construction halted at flagship French nuclear reactor over problems in concrete base.** Construction problems at a new-generation nuclear reactor in France have prompted a partial suspension of work at the site, at the request of France's nuclear safety agency, the agency said Wednesday.

Concrete-pouring at the site of the Flamanville-3 reactor on the Normandy coast was halted May 21, said the head of the nuclear safety agency's division in the French region of Caen. "It's not a problem of safety or quality," he said. "What has been built so far is fine. We're looking out for the future." It was the second halt in construction since the work on the reactor began last year. This time, "anomalies" were again found with the steel frame, he said. Flamanville-3 is under particular scrutiny because it is to be one of the first European Pressurized Reactors. He said French electricity giant EDF – which is overseeing the project, contracted to Bouygues – has suffered from poor quality control because of organizational problems on site. The French nuclear safety agency has submitted demands for improvement to EDF that must be addressed before the concrete pouring resumes.

Source: <http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2008/05/28/europe/EU-GEN-France-Nuclear-Reactor.php>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

8. *May 29, Military Times* – (National) **Carrier arrives in San Diego for fire repairs.**

The aircraft carrier George Washington pulled into a berth in California Tuesday evening for an undetermined stay while shipyard repair teams inspect, assess, and fix damage caused by last week's fire that slightly injured two dozen sailors. The May 22 fire broke out near the aft refrigeration and air conditioning space and auxiliary boiler room aboard the nuclear-powered ship, which on April 7 left its former Norfolk, Virginia, homeport to join the Navy's forward-deployed forces in Japan. The fire, which the skipper described as "significant," had started near an auxiliary boiler space and spread through a cable supply and exhaust trunk. The ship's propulsion systems were unaffected by the fire, which officials said did not threaten the reactor. The cause of the fire was still under investigation, said George Washington's commanding officer, and it was unclear on Tuesday just how extensive the repairs will be. The George Washington will replace Kitty Hawk, a conventionally-powered ship, which left Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, on Wednesday for an eventual turnover at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

Source: http://www.navytimes.com/news/2008/05/navy_gwfire_052808w/

9. *May 27, Defense News* – (National) **USCG: Problems with new cutter being fixed.**

The U.S. Coast Guard's new national security cutter, the Bertholf, is steadily whittling down its number of outstanding technical problems now that its crew has moved aboard and the ship is taking regular trips to sea, senior Coast Guard officials said. The service's head of acquisitions said that the presence of the crew onboard enabled Coast Guardsman and shipyard engineers to resolve five of the eight systems "starred" in an April report by the Navy Board of Inspection and Survey. By the time the cutter sails from its Gulf Coast shipyard in mid-June, he expected all eight problems to be resolved.

Source: <http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=3549629&c=AME&s=SEA>

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Banking and Finance Sector

10. *May 29, Boston Globe* – (Massachusetts) **Identity-theft services face legal test.**

IdentityTruth Inc. says it will reimburse customers up to \$2 million if they are victims of identity theft. But a Phoenix lawyer says the identity-protection company's promise is not worth nearly that much. IdentityTruth charges \$10 a month or \$100 a year to insure people against unauthorized use of their personal information. The privately held company posts fraud alerts with credit reporting agencies on behalf of its customers. These alerts warn banks and other businesses not to open new accounts unless they confirm the identity of the customer. In addition, IdentityTruth scours the Internet and a host of private and government-run databases, looking for evidence that somebody out there is pretending to be the customer. The company does not actually prevent identity theft. The IdentityTruth website states, "if you are a member of our service and are a victim of identity theft resulting in the loss of your money, we will reimburse you up to \$2 million." But a Phoenix law firm official said the fine print of the IdentityTruth guarantee belies this assertion. He recently filed a lawsuit in the US District Court of Arizona against a rival service, LifeLock Inc. of Tempe. The suit, which seeks class-action status, claims LifeLock's \$1 million guarantee is fraudulent because it contains loopholes that make it far less generous. He said the same loopholes are present in the IdentityTruth guarantee. For instance, the guarantee covers damages caused by a failure of the IdentityTruth service. But banks often ignore fraud alerts. If that happens and an IdentityTruth customer gets stung, the company is not liable, because the bank failed, not IdentityTruth. The president of Javelin Strategy said consumers should not be too quick to sign on with any identity theft preventers.

Source:

http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2008/05/29/identity_theft_services_face_legal_test/

11. *May 28, Originator Times* – (California) **Home foreclosure ring scam broken up.** San Diego and state officials announced that a huge real estate fraud scheme has been broken up after victimizing potentially 400 homeowners in San Diego County alone, with additional victims in other counties. There are many more victims throughout the state who have not yet come forward or do not yet realize they have been scammed. "The defendants preyed on mostly non-English speaking, Hispanic homeowners who were in foreclosure, claiming to offer assistance in preventing the victims from losing their home," a District Attorney said. The defendants are facing more than 100 felony charges and that number is expected to increase. The defendants were allegedly engaged in a widespread foreclosure rescue scam by which they acquired grant deeds to homes in foreclosure based on untrue or misleading statements that their "land grant program" would prevent homeowners from losing their homes through foreclosure. Two methods were used for inducing owners of residences in foreclosure to participate in a so-called land grant program. One method required homeowners to pay a one-time fee of up to \$10,000 to put their property in a land grant. The second method was a lease back scheme in which homeowners paid the suspects \$500 or more and then transferred their property via grant deeds to the defendants for no consideration and then made monthly payments to the defendants, purportedly to rent their homes back from the defendants. In

both scenarios, the homeowner was typically evicted from their property at the completion of foreclosure proceedings and retained no legally recognized title to their property. While the total loss is still being tallied, the defendants probably got away with hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Source:

<http://originatortimes.com/content/templates/standard.aspx?articleid=3190&zoneid=5>

12. *May 27, Daily Local* – (Pennsylvania) **Data breach concerns residents.** News of a teenager being arrested for hacking into the school district's computer system and obtaining Social Security numbers has left some district residents wondering if their identity is in danger. Borough, Pennsylvania, police arrested the 15-year-old male connected with the computer breach on May 21. The student accessed a school district computer server, copied and duplicated computer data and transferred that data to his home computer. According to police, the files contained more than 41,000 taxpayers' names and personal information including Social Security numbers and more than 15,000 students' names and personal information. The district sent out letters to 16,595 residents whose names were included in the file. Personal information of 71 employees at one of the district's schools was included in these files. Police have isolated another student that may have received part of the copied files from the arrested student.

Source:

http://www.dailylocal.com/WebApp/appmanager/JRC/Daily?_nfpb=true&_pageLabel=pg_article&r21.pgpath=%2FDLN%2FHome&r21.content=%2FDLN%2FHome%2FTopStoryList_Story_2110534

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Transportation Sector

13. *May 29, WUSA 9 District of Columbia* – (National) **Trailer hijacking may be new terrorist ploy.** Trailer hijackings can net millions of dollars for thieves at a relatively low risk and that is why this type of crime known as cargo theft may be an option for terrorists trying to raise money. The FBI estimates that cargo theft and trailer hijackings is a \$30 billion a year crime wave. One single trailer loaded with expensive and easily disposable merchandise such as microchips or prescription drugs can net in excess of \$17 million dollars for thieves. Experts say it is relatively easy for thieves to drive their rigs up to a trailer hook it up and quickly drive away. Thieves are targeting trailers in parking lots, rest stops, filling stations and even ports. To make matters worse, the criminal penalties are relatively minor, so arrested thieves could be out on the street in a few days. This combination makes cargo theft ideal for organized crime groups and terrorists trying to raise money with little risk say some law enforcement officials. There is a move in Congress to hold hearings to address cargo theft.

Source: http://www.wusa9.com/rss/local_article.aspx?storyid=72173

14. *May 29, Sacramento Bee* – (National) **Hoax threats alleged against airline, embassy.** Two area men were charged in separate indictments returned Wednesday by a federal grand jury in Sacramento with making hoax threats against an airline and an American embassy. A North Natomas resident is charged with an Internet hoax threat against an

international Delta Airlines flight and with threatening to destroy the aircraft. He faces a maximum five years in prison on each count. The charges were brought under a 2004 law enacted after investigation of several anthrax hoaxes, according to an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He said there is no evidence the two hoaxes are related or that the defendants are acquainted. The threats caused additional security measures on the Delta flight and at the embassy, the indictments say.

Source: <http://www.sacbee.com/101/story/973280.html>

15. *May 28, Associated Press* – (Massachusetts, Illinois) **Officials probe train wrecks in Boston, Chicago.** Federal investigators arrived Thursday at the tracks outside Boston where two commuter trains collided and derailed during rush hour a day earlier, trapping and killing a train operator and injuring more than a dozen passengers. Officials from the National Transportation Safety Board were trying to determine what caused Wednesday's above-ground crash, said a spokesman for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority. The trains had about 200 passengers combined. A full report is not expected for up to 18 months, said a NTSB spokesman. The crash came hours after an elevated train derailed in Chicago, sending 14 people to hospitals. Officials there said a train operator apparently made two key errors in quick succession to cause a derailment that left passengers perched more than 20 feet above the ground. The operator failed to heed a red signal ordering him to stop, said a Chicago Transit Authority spokeswoman. She said there was still a possibility the aging transit system played a role in the derailment. A total of 25 people were on the train.

Source:

http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5jPpewFUfQvT_MkcM8mlFoTMeUvAD90VAREO1

16. *May 28, WDBO 580 AM Orlando* – (Florida) **Plane makes emergency landing at OIA.** American Airlines flight 1247 made an emergency landing at Orlando International Airport Wednesday morning after experiencing mid-air engine trouble. The 757 flying from Miami to Chicago was in the air for less than an hour when it was diverted to Orlando. A monitor on board indicated a loss in engine thrust on one side. With 160 passengers on board, plus flight crew, the plane landed safely and taxied to the gate under its own power. Maintenance crews discovered the problem, called for a replacement part, and made the repair right at the gate. Passengers were allowed to deplane and wait inside the airport until their plane was ready to continue to O'Hare.

Source:

http://580wdb.com/includes/news/indepth/00976_Plane_makes_emergency_landing_at_OIA_134405.html

17. *May 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Nuclear company apologizes for 'hot spot' on truck.** The world's largest builder of nuclear reactors apologized to regulators Wednesday over a shipment of equipment that contained a radiation "hot spot" that exceeded federal guidelines and traveled more than 400 miles from Virginia to Tennessee. A team of inspectors said the quarter-sized spot, which was located on cleaning equipment in an Areva NP Inc. shipment, measured 10 times higher than the federally allowed level of radiation for transport. Areva said its own tests showed that

the “hot spot,” or concentrated area of radiation, was four times higher than the limits. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Areva both concluded the radiation did not pose a threat to the truck’s driver, employees or the public. But company leaders conceded the incident exposed “weaknesses” in Areva’s shipping procedures. The radiation was found on the bottom of a box of fuel cleaning equipment located on an open flatbed truck that made a seven-hour trip from Areva’s facility near Lynchburg, Virginia, to the Watts Bar Nuclear Plant north of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The spot at the bottom of the truck they measured at 2,000 millirem per hour — 10 times higher than the commission’s guidelines of 200 millirem per hour. An Areva inspector said inspectors will no longer ship fuel cleaning equipment on open flatbeds.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5g2rjm1YRsCS4cttz4iCP7PGf7DmwD90US97OA>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to Report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

18. *May 29, USAgNet* – (National) **Report counts the impact of foreign animal disease.** A new report by the U.S. Economic Research Service presents a quarterly livestock and crop modeling framework. In this framework epidemiological model results are integrated with an economic model of the U.S. agricultural sector to estimate the economic impacts of outbreaks of foreign-source livestock diseases. The framework can be applied to many livestock diseases. This study uses the model to assess the results of a hypothetical outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Model results show large trade-related losses for beef, beef cattle, hogs, and pork, even though relatively few animals are destroyed. The best control strategies prove to be those that reduce the duration of the outbreak.

Source: <http://www.usagnet.com/story-national.php?Id=1273&yr=2008>

19. *May 28, Congress Daily* – (National) **FDA won’t meet deadline for food safety registry.** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will not meet the September deadline that Congress imposed last year to have a registry up and running to help the agency track food contamination and better understand where to focus its limited resources. FDA’s decision to operate the system using its so-called business enterprise system – which is still under construction – has delayed the registry’s implementation, according to a document the agency placed in an online database of all federal rule-making Tuesday. The document did not explain what the enterprise business system is, and FDA did not respond to inquiries. The document states only that FDA believes the system is the most effective and cost-efficient way to implement the registry. Congress required the food adulteration registry in a comprehensive bill that reauthorized the agency’s user fee programs and gave FDA more authority to oversee the safety of

pharmaceuticals, devices and food. Lawmakers allowed FDA one year from the bill's September passage to jumpstart the registry. Now, FDA expects to implement the portal, dubbed the Reportable Food Registry, around spring 2009 at the earliest.

Source: <http://govexec.com/dailyfed/0508/052808cdpm1.htm>

20. *May 28, CNN* – (International) **South Korea to resume U.S. beef imports.** South Korea will open its market to most U.S. beef, a senior government official said Thursday, according to state media. Thousands of people have taken to the streets of the South Korean capital in protest of the deal. South Korea banned imports of U.S. beef in 2003 amid concerns over a case of mad cow disease in the United States. The ban closed what was then the third-largest market for U.S. beef exporters. It resumed limited imports last year, allowing boneless beef from cattle under 30-months of age. However, that re-opening was subject to interruptions and closed altogether in October 2007. A deal that South Korea and the U.S. struck last month bans the import of high-risk materials, like tonsils, brains, spinal cord marrow and a section of the small intestine, according to South Korea's Yonhap news agency. These parts pose the greatest risk of transmitting mad cow disease to humans. The ban will be lifted within a few days, once the government's new import rules have been published.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/WORLD/asiapcf/05/29/skorea.usbeef/>

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Water Sector

21. *May 28, Associated Press* – (National) **Fed report says climate change risks crops, water.** Climate change is increasing the risk of U.S. crop failures, depleting the nation's water resources, and contributing to outbreaks of invasive species and insects, according to a federal report released Tuesday. Those and other problems for the U.S. livestock and forestry industries will persist for at least the next 25 years, said the report compiled by 38 scientists for use by water and land managers. Scientists produced the report by analyzing research from more than 1,000 publications, rather than conducting new research. It is part of a federal assessment of global warming for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program, sponsored by 13 federal agencies, led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Drought-strained forests in the West and Southeast are easy prey for tree-killing insects like bark beetles. Snow in the Western mountains is melting earlier, making it more difficult for managers overseeing a long-established system of reservoirs and irrigation ditches that serves western states. The Southeast does not have the same kind of storage system because rain historically has been more consistent. Current weather disruptions have the region struggling with drought.

Source:

<http://ap.google.com/article/ALeqM5hFi8hIuL6gHiwJpS2Y1426xYzkxwD90UCUHO0>

22. *May 28, XETV 6 San Diego* – (California) **Water treatment plants socked with fines.** Four southern California water treatment plants were fined a total of \$8,000 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for failing to submit risk management plans, it was announced Wednesday. The Miramar Water Treatment Plant and the Otay Water Treatment Plant violated the federal Clean Air Act by not updating and submitting the

plan every five years, according to the EPA. Such plans help prevent chemical releases and minimize problems at facilities that store large amounts of hazardous substances and flammable chemicals, said the director of the area's Superfund Program. The other two plants cited are in Riverside County: the Chuckawalla Valley State Prison Water Treatment Plant and the Desert Water Agency Water Reclamation Facility.

Source: http://www.fox6.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=57f0afda-7de5-46d9-bc32-a008527f3d31

23. *May 27, Sky-Hi Daily News* – (Colorado) **Hot Sulphur Springs water woes simmer into week seven.** The Colorado Department of Health and Environment plans to issue an enforcement order to the town of Hot Sulphur Springs this week “for them to provide us a schedule when they can safely get off of the boil order and stay off,” said a district engineer with the Colorado Health Department. Hot Sulphur Springs residents have been under the order going on seven weeks, a long time in the state's view. With a limited budget, the small town is looking to update its antiquated plant after high levels of turbidity or cloudiness had been found in drinking water. The town is now focused on improving its water distribution system; including rebuilding and re-automating the filtration plant and building a new clear well with new pumps. Work in that direction is already under way, although progress seems slow to the average resident concerned for water safety. Engineering and soil testing are being done for the new clear well, which is a holding tank before water is distributed, and filtration equipment has been ordered, according to the mayor.

Source: <http://www.skyhidailynews.com/article/20080527/NEWS/171829947>

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *May 28, WVNS 59 Beckley* – (West Virginia) **Nursing shortage looms in West Virginia.** West Virginia health care officials say they cannot find enough nurses to fill all the open positions. Officials say several factors have played a role in the shortage, and nurses say the demanding schedules have caused people to look elsewhere for work. This month local hospitals, which are trying to create more attractive benefit packages, met with education facilities to voice the need.

Source: <http://www.wvnstv.com/story.cfm?func=viewstory&storyid=39200>

25. *May 29, Medical News Today* – (International) **Most developing countries ill-equipped to ensure global biosafety: UN University.** A two-year UN study of internationally funded training programs in biotechnology and biosafety warns that as many as 100 developing countries are unprepared to effectively manage and monitor the use of modern biotechnologies, leaving the world community open to serious biosafety threats. The report, from the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, says training and management deficiencies in most countries of Africa, Central Asia, Oceania and the Caribbean, “are so pervasive and broad that there is no effective international system of biosafety at the moment.” In addition, the global resources available from donor countries and agencies, already inadequate to help developing countries meet basic international agreement obligations, are being cut back. The

authors say the use and prevalence of biotechnology in agriculture and other sectors seems certain to increase. However, they cite the lack of technical, policy and enforcement capacities in developing countries as “a potentially contributing factor to the spread of bioterrorism” -- the deliberate release of naturally-occurring or human-modified bacteria, viruses, toxins or other biological agents. “There may also be broader implications of a capacity deficit in biosafety and biotechnology. These may include an impaired ability to meet the challenges of global issues such as climate change, or to protect humans and the environment against biosecurity risks,” said the UNU-IAS director.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/109006.php>

26. *May 29, Las Cruces Sun-News* – (New Mexico) **Salmonella outbreak a mystery.** The number of Doña Ana County residents who contracted salmonella remains at four after the Memorial Day weekend but the Department of Health is still investigating the state’s 19 Salmonellosis cases. The department’s public information officer for Las Cruces said no one has died but six people have been hospitalized in New Mexico from the food-borne illness, which commonly causes diarrhea, vomiting, fever and abdominal cramps up to 72 hours after infection. “We have alerted physicians and hospitals around the state to be on the lookout for people presenting with fever and diarrhea and to test those people for Salmonella,” said a deputy state epidemiologist with the Department of Health in a statement late last week. He urged the public to take general cleanliness precautions to avoid exposure and to seek treatment if they develop a severe illness with fever and diarrhea. Three cases have also been reported in Arizona, one in Utah and 14 in Texas, the official said.

Source: http://www.lcsun-news.com/news/ci_9409824

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Government Facilities Sector

27. *May 28, Associated Press* – (California) **Sacramento, Dixon men charged in separate airline, embassy threats.** Two Sacramento-area men were indicted on federal charges Wednesday of making separate bomb threats, one against Delta Airlines and the other against the U.S. Embassy in Italy. One is charged with sending an October 2007 e-mail threatening to destroy the embassy in Rome. The 22-year-old Dixon, California, man allegedly warned, “There’s going to be a lot of dead people...” Security was increased for the Delta flight and at the embassy because of the separate threats.

Source: http://www.news10.net/display_story.aspx?storyid=42550

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Emergency Services Sector

28. *May 29, Lake County News* – (California) **Multi-agency exercise puts first responders to the test.** Dozens of independent agencies took part in a disaster drill at Upper Lake County Park in Lake County, California Wednesday afternoon. The drill simulated a multi-vehicle auto collision at the finish line of a triathlon event where hundreds of

spectators gather. The objective was to give local and state agencies an opportunity to evaluate how they work together in emergency situations. A California Highway Patrol Officer said that the scenario included 18 simulated fatalities, 40 major traumas, 25 delayed traumas (meaning major injuries that are not life-threatening) and 25 walking wounded, all of which were attended to by emergency personnel. Following a trip through a decontamination tent, where simulated chemicals and fuel were removed, volunteer victims were to be transported to medical facilities. State Office of Emergency Services officials were also a part of the afternoon event. An emergency services coordinator, whose area of responsibility includes Lake County, said that overall the group did well.

Source: <http://lakeconews.com/content/view/4364/764/>

29. *May 29, Chico Enterprise Record* – (California) **Chico State conducts active shooter drill.** Police at Chico State University tested a new phone emergency alert system and conducted an “active shooter” response drill Wednesday. Messages went out at about 9 a.m. to 6,500 people who signed up for the emergency notification. Wednesday those folks were sent a message that a training exercise was taking place. Messages can be sent via voice or text message. The University Police Lieutenant said tests will now be done to check if those messages were received properly. In the aftermath of high-profile shooting cases, including one in February at Northern Illinois University where five people were killed and 18 wounded, universities and other public places are more on guard to protect people in case of a crisis. The drill scenario was that a person brought two guns and an explosive device to an office in the Kendall Building. One person pretended to be injured and two participants pretended to have been taken hostage.

Source: http://www.chicoer.com/ci_9412023?source=rss

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Information Technology

30. *May 29, Register* – (International) **Comcast hack leaves users without email.** The portal of U.S. communications giant Comcast was hacked on Wednesday night in an assault that left subscribers unable to access their emails for several hours. The comcast.net front page was replaced by a greeting from hackers on Wednesday night (28 May). The defacement was removed around two hours later. Before the site was restored in the early Thursday morning, users encountered a “page under construction” message. The site remained intermittently unavailable even after this time. Hackers calling themselves KRYOGENICS EBK and DEFIANT claimed the defacement. As a result of the attack, Comcast subscribers were unable to access their email or other services through the portal for more than two hours. The exact mechanism of the attack is unclear. However, an injected iFrame that served up content from sites under the control of hackers is suspected. Some form of DNS redirection attack may also have been involved. Normally defacement attacks simply involve the spraying of digital graffiti on a website. However, in the case of the Comcast attack it seems some attempt may have been made to snoop on its users’ login credentials. “There is still a lot of speculation about the details of this and why this happened,” said a Comcast user. “But it is clear now that a group of people (according to the hacker’s message) somehow rerouted the

IP and DNS values of Comcast to an off site.

(<http://www.freewebs.com/kryogeniks911/>).” “It appears there was no malicious codes or script being run but a lot of people are saying that ports were being ‘listened’ to which could have led to the compromising of username/passwords,” the user added.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/29/comcast_hack/

31. *May 28, Computerworld* – (National) **Apple updates Leopard, issues 68 fixes.** More than three months after it last updated Mac OS X, Apple Inc. today released 10.5.3, an upgrade for its Leopard operating system that boasts nearly 70 stability, compatibility, and security improvements and fixes. Apple did not include patches for two of three iCal vulnerabilities that were made public a week ago, however. Mac OS X 10.5.3, the third upgrade to Leopard since Apple launched the current in October 2007, addresses issues in several components and bundled applications, ranging from the Address Book and Automator to Time Machine and VoiceOver. Apple also listed a baker’s dozen under a “General” category that included a fix for hard drives that would not show in the Finder; an improvement in Spotlight, the OS’s built-in search tool, for searches done on AFP volumes; and a patch for stuttering audio and video playback from certain USB-based hardware. AirPort, Apple’s label for its wireless technology, got a pair of fixes: one to improve wireless reliability in general, the other to boost reliability when used with the company’s relatively new Time Capsule router-cum-backup-device that debuted earlier this year. Apple also tucked eight fixes for iCal, its personal scheduling program, into the 10.5.3 update, but failed to patch two of the three security vulnerabilities disclosed last week by Core Security Technologies. It appears Apple did patch the most serious of the three – dubbed CVE-2008-1035 – which Core said was the only one of the three it had proven could be used to insert malicious code into a Mac.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9090338&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

32. *May 28, IDG News Service* – (National) **Symantec backtracks on Adobe Flash warning.** After warning on Tuesday that hackers were exploiting an unpatched bug in Adobe Systems’ Flash Player software, Symantec has backtracked from this claim, saying the flaw is “very similar” to another vulnerability that was patched last month. Symantec’s initial warning described a disturbing threat – a previously unknown and unpatched flaw that was being exploited on tens of thousands of Web pages. The flaw allowed attackers to install unauthorized software on a victim’s machine and was being used to install botnet programs and password-logging software, Symantec said. Now Symantec believes that the bug was previously known and patched by Adobe on April 8, said a senior research manager with Symantec Security Response. However, the Linux version of Adobe’s stand-alone Flash Player, version 9.0.124, is vulnerable to the attack. On Tuesday Symantec researchers saw that the attack worked on Linux and that it caused Flash Player to crash on Windows XP, so they reasoned that they had a new bug that was just not working properly on the Windows platform, possibly due to a programming error by the hackers. “We thought it was a problem with the exploit,” he said. Now Symantec believes that the vulnerability was simply not properly patched in this one version of Adobe’s software, he said.

Source:

<http://www.networkworld.com/news/2008/052808-symantec-backtracks-on-adobe-flash.html>

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

33. *May 29, Register* – (International) **Hackers start poking holes in NFC.** A researcher from the Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology used the recent EUSecWest event to demonstrate progress in attacking Near Field Communications (NFC) applications. Near Field Communications is the radio frequency identification (RFID)-based standard being built into mobile phones to allow them greater interaction with the physical world. NFC-enabled handsets can be used to pay for bus or train journeys, replacing existing contactless cards, and can read tags embedded in (Smart) posters that trigger a URL to be loaded or a phone number to be called. Currently, only Nokia sells an NFC-enabled handset, the 6131NFC, though they have another model planned for later this year. But NFC is compatible with previous contactless standards such as MiFare and Felica. Therefore, the Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology created a toolkit that turns a 6131NFC into a generic toolkit for testing deployments of those technologies, as well as looking at functionality unique to NFC deployments. Two hacks involved replacing the NFC tag on a vending machine, and spoofing a uniform resource identifier (URI) in a Smart Poster to connect the user to somewhere other than they wished. The vending machines in question are in Vienna where a phone is waved near the machine and an NFC connection asks the phone to send an SMS message. This premium-rate SMS message is used to pay for the snack. The hacker simply switches NFC tags between two machines and collects what is paid for using the other machine. It is also possible to display one URI to the phone's user, while triggering the handset to connect to a different one. The Fraunhofer Institute for Secure Information Technology told Nokia about the problems last month; Nokia is already working on a fix.

Source: http://www.theregister.co.uk/2008/05/29/first_nfc_hack/

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Commercial Facilities Sector

34. *May 29, St. Augustine Record* – (International) **China prepares for Olympics terrorism.** Health officials said Wednesday that they were prepared for an array of terrorist attacks on the Beijing Summer Olympic Games, ranging from anthrax and

black plague to radiological “dirty bombs.” Some 500,000 foreigners are expected to visit Beijing for the event. Security officials are already implementing a number of precautions around the capital, including removing doors from stalls at 200 public toilets near game venues. By the end of June, security agents will have put metal detectors at all subway stations and will randomly frisk some riders, sweep handheld detectors over others and deploy dog patrols along platforms. Subway passengers will not be able to carry liquids past checkpoints. Some 1.5 million people ride the subway every day.

Source: http://staugustine.com/stories/052908/world_052908_050.shtml

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

35. *May 29, Washington Post* – (District of Columbia) **New arsenic testing ends shutdown at Fort Reno Park.** Officials reopened Fort Reno Park in northwest Washington Wednesday, stating that recent extensive tests have found no unsafe levels of arsenic in the soil there. The 33-acre field was abruptly closed to the public May 14 after the U.S. Geological Survey revealed soil samples showing arsenic levels of as much as 1,100 parts per million – about 25 times the limit of 43 parts per million set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). But those test results turned out to be “a false positive,” officials said Wednesday. “We have retested the original samples, and the EPA has conducted its own tests, and U.S. Geological Survey scientists are confident that the low levels [found in the recent EPA tests] are the true levels here in the park.” Across from the park, officials also had cordoned off a dirt area near the running track at Woodrow Wilson Senior High School, saying the initial tests indicated high levels of arsenic there. That area also got the all-clear Wednesday. Arsenic, which occurs naturally in the environment, can cause a range of health problems if a person is exposed to high levels for a prolonged period. The Park Service official in charge of Fort Reno said the scientists who conducted the recent tests found a small patch of soil in the park’s northwest corner that is contaminated with an unsafe level of lead. This official also said that the area, about ten feet by 15 feet, has been cordoned off, pending further tests. “We will, more than likely, do a remediation there, which means we will come in and dig up the soil and haul it away.”

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/05/28/AR2008052803026.html>

36. *May 28, Salt Lake Tribune* – (Utah) **New regulations proposed for OHV use.** Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the Dixie National Forest faces new regulations under a draft environmental impact study now available from the U.S. Forest Service, which considers unmanaged OHV traffic as one of the key threats facing national forests. Phenomenal growth in southwestern Utah, Salt Lake City, and Las Vegas has led to increasing erosion, watershed, and habitat damage, threats to cultural sites and endangered or threatened species, and increasing degradation of recreational experience, the Forest Service says. Currently, OHV users can ride freely in the 1.9 million acres that the Forest Service administers in six southeastern Utah counties, unless otherwise posted. The agency now proposes to end cross-country travel except for specific purposes, to close some OHV trails, and to establish a new system of designated routes.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_9398953

37. *May 28, Associated Press* – (Utah) **Dust up over natural gas, ancient rock art.** Along Utah's Nine Mile Canyon lies what some call the longest art gallery in the world – more than 10,000 prehistoric rock carvings and paintings. An increase in natural gas drilling is proposed on the plateau above the canyon. As a result, preservationists fear trucks will kick up dust that will cover over the images. In 2002, Bill Barrett Corporation paid about \$8 million for more than 47,000 acres of oil and gas leases in and around the plateau. The area now has 100 to 110 active natural gas wells by the BLM's estimate, and the agency is proposing to allow roughly 700 to 800 more to be drilled over eight years. Traffic along the narrow gravel road through the canyon would increase from about 107 vehicles per day now to a maximum of 441 per day during peak development, which would probably last two to three years, according to BLM estimates. They also worry that a chemical dust suppressant could corrode the rock. Additionally, the use of magnesium chloride applied to the road to harden the dirt and keep dust down also raises concern. The fear is that it will collect in the pores of the rock and eat away its surface. Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/24861168/>

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Dams Sector

38. *May 29, New York Times* – (International) **River threatens China quake survivors.** Faced with the prospect of massive flooding from a blocked river in the highlands of Sichuan Province, the authorities have announced plans to evacuate more than a million people should the rock-and-mud embankment give way, a threat that grew more urgent on Wednesday. "The efforts are aimed at getting all the 1.3 million residents on the move within four hours in case the quake lake bank fully opens, with zero deaths in the process of evacuation," said the head of quake relief operations in the city of Mianyang, which has a population of 600,000. Engineers and soldiers spent a second frantic day trying to alleviate pressure on the barrier lake at Tangjiashan, a swelling body of water that has been rising behind an avalanche that clogged the Jian River, two miles upstream from the city of Beichuan. Because the dam is inaccessible by road, the army has been using helicopters to fly in 30 excavators and bulldozers. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/05/29/world/asia/29china.html>
39. *May 27, St. Tammany News* – (Louisiana) **Golden Glen dam is falling.** "In a major rain event, you could see that weir failing," the Mandeville Public Works director said last March, referring to the derelict dam holding back a 2,000-foot retention pond from pouring into Mandeville's Golden Glen neighborhood. As fate would have it, last week the residents of Mandeville witnessed what officials called a 100-year rain event that dumped almost seven inches of rain in one hour. This caused a massive surge of water to begin rushing over and under the cement weir completely hollowing out its underside while sending speeding waters over the dam taking out several trees and eroding the land holding up one of the walls. The wall has begun to crumble, and now noticeable gaps exist between the land and weir that are more than six feet deep and funnel under the dam. Because of the concerns voiced by residents on both sides of the weir, a parish

councilman said Thursday the parish has taken the initiative and will send personnel from Public Works to make emergency repairs with the hope of stabilizing the structure until the parish can fully take control of the land.

Source:

<http://www.slidellsentry.com/articles/2008/05/27/news/doc483c1596ba173175004167.txt>

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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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